

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE
3

4 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
5 Plaintiff,) CR17-00135-TSZ
6 v.) SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
7 STEVEN THOMPSON,) January 18, 2018
8 Defendant.) Sentencing Hearing -
9) Redacted
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11)
12)

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14 VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS
15 BEFORE THE HONORABLE THOMAS S. ZILLY
16 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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19 APPEARANCES:

20 For the Plaintiff: Catherine L. Crisham
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1 THE COURT: Good afternoon. Ladies and gentlemen.
2 Please be seated.

3 The clerk will please call the next matter on the calendar.

4 THE CLERK: Thank you, Your Honor.

5 Case No. CR17-135, United States versus Steven Thompson.

6 MS. CRISHAM: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Kate Crisham
7 for the United States.

8 THE COURT: Good afternoon again, counsel.

9 MR. NANCE: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Michael Nance
10 for Steven Thompson, standing to my left.

11 THE COURT: All right. Good afternoon.

12 Are the parties ready to proceed with sentencing?

13 MS. CRISHAM: Yes, Your Honor.

14 MR. NANCE: Yes, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Did the defendant receive the presentence
16 report and the sentencing recommendations of probation?

17 MR. NANCE: Yes, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: All right. In addition, I have reviewed the
19 release status report dated January 9, pretrial services report,
20 Docket 35, the plea agreement, the government's sentencing memo,
21 the defendant's sentencing memo, and a supplemental exhibit to
22 the defense sentencing memo, a letter, Docket 252, filed under
23 seal.

24 And earlier today I granted the motion to seal that was
25 pending in this proceeding, and sealed, I think, the government's

1 memo and the defense memo.

2 MR. NANCE: Your Honor, there were two supplements for
3 which --

4 THE COURT: Yes. And I just referred to two
5 supplements. I read them both.

6 They are, again for the record, a supplementary exhibit,
7 Docket 252-1, and -- I'm sorry, I didn't refer to it -- a letter
8 from the brother, which is filed as 254, which I did review.
9 It's called a "Second Supplementary Exhibit."

10 All right. Are there any factual disputes to the facts
11 stated in the presentence report?

12 MS. CRISHAM: Not from the government, Your Honor.

13 MR. NANCE: Your Honor, we have a couple of matters that
14 we would like to make a record of.

15 THE COURT: So this relates to facts in the presentence
16 report; is that right?

17 MR. NANCE: Yes. Yes.

18 THE COURT: All right.

19 MR. NANCE: Paragraph 15 --

20 THE COURT: Just a moment.

21 All right.

22 MR. NANCE: [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

THE COURT: Were you present during the earlier
sentencings?

MR. NANCE: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay. Good.

MR. NANCE: Yes.

THE COURT: Because some of that was discussed earlier.

MR. NANCE: Yes. And I'll try to address some of it
here.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MR. NANCE: That's what they say, yes.

THE COURT: That's what they say.

MR. NANCE: Yes.

THE COURT: All right. Well, your objection to
paragraph 15 is noted for the record. I'm not going to change
it.

1 MR. NANCE: All right.

2 Then well into the report, paragraphs 93 through 95,
3 "Financial Condition: Ability to Pay," I just want to make a
4 brief comment that we don't think that a fine is appropriate in
5 this case.

6 THE COURT: And none was recommended by probation.

7 MR. NANCE: Well, I thought they recommended 5,000.

8 THE COURT: I don't think so.

9 Well, they didn't recommend a fine.

10 MR. NANCE: Okay. Well, I'm not going to argue with
11 that if they --

12 THE COURT: Is that right?

13 MS. OLSEN: Your Honor, there is the Justice for Victims
14 of Trafficking Act of 2015, and it's mandatory for all cases that
15 fall under this crime, under Chapter, I believe, 110 or 117. And
16 this criminal conviction falls under that chapter.

17 If the Court deems him indigent, then the Court may waive
18 that \$5,000 fine.

19 THE COURT: So that's a little different than the fine.
20 And I didn't focus on that. I'm sorry.

21 MR. NANCE: I can just give you the one-minute overview
22 of his financial circumstances. They are not good. He had a
23 well-paying job at Microsoft, through Microsoft. He was a
24 software -- correct me if I'm wrong here -- kind of a testing
25 engineer that he worked through contract. He made good money

1 there. In fact, money was not the motivating factor here by any
2 means in this case. But that's gone.

3 One of the immediate collateral consequences was to lose his
4 job. He cashed out his IRA, and that's --

5 THE DEFENDANT: 401(k).

6 MR. NANCE: His 401(k). That's largely spent now. He
7 lived on that for a bit. He's now making \$14 an hour at Home
8 Depot, struggling to pay bills each month.

9 And so to the extent the Court has any discretion, I would
10 urge against the imposition of financial penalties here. Those
11 are the main bones of contention we have with the presentence
12 report.

13 We agree with the calculation, the guideline calculation. We
14 agree with the recommendation, apart from the fine.

15 THE COURT: Well, reading the statement in
16 paragraph 104, it doesn't sound like I have any discretion. "The
17 court shall assess 5,000, per count, on any non-indigent person
18 convicted of an offense under the chapter."

19 Are you saying he's indigent?

20 MR. NANCE: Well, I guess it depends on how you define
21 it. He certainly qualified for CJA appointment. He didn't have
22 the money to hire private counsel. I'm court appointed, and have
23 been from day one.

24 THE COURT: All right. Well, that's a question with
25 regard to sentencing as opposed to --

1 MR. NANCE: I understand.

2 THE COURT: All right. So I'm going to adopt as facts
3 the facts stated in the presentence report. And with respect to
4 the offense-level computations, I do not believe that this
5 defendant should be given a minor role adjustment, and it would
6 be my intent not to allow that and to, therefore, increase his
7 adjusted offense level accordingly.

8 Do you wish to be heard on that, Mr. Nance?

9 MR. NANCE: Yes.

10 THE COURT: All right.

11 MR. NANCE: We, naturally, agree with probation on this,
12 that when compared to the other co-conspirators in the case, that
13 his culpability is less than average. Mr. Thompson did not
14 recruit anyone to this conspiracy. He did not manage these
15 women. He didn't manage any co-conspirators. He did not
16 advertise their services. He had zero dealings with
17 Backpage.com. He had no dealings with any customers of these
18 women. With one exception, he didn't handle directly any
19 prostitution proceeds. That one exception was done because he
20 was specifically requested by Ms. Wang to accept some money from
21 one of the women. He indirectly accepted earnings when he paid
22 expenses that were forwarded to him. He had no proprietary
23 interest in this operation. He was probably the least trusted by
24 the conspiracy leader because he was of a distinctly different
25 cultural and language background. He spoke just marginal

1 Mandarin. That was the language of choice by every one of the
2 other defendants. And finally, and probably most importantly, he
3 was motivated not by money or greed, certainly not by any need or
4 desire to exploit women, but by the need for emotional and
5 personal companionship with women. These, I think, cast him in a
6 different light, in a more lenient light, than the other
7 defendants that have been before the Court.

8 Because it may be important, he had no sexual relations with
9 any of these women. He was seeking something permanent. He may
10 have been looking for love in the wrong places. But that was his
11 primary motivation, was to find a woman. He wanted a wife. That
12 may sound absurd to some people, but that's what he wanted. And
13 this was a way to meet women. This was a way to meet women who
14 might be interested in him. That was what he got from this.

15 That's essentially my argument on why he is a minor
16 participant. I mean, I have other comments about the case, if
17 you want to hear them now.

18 THE COURT: No, not yet.

19 MR. NANCE: Okay.

20 THE COURT: Thank you.

21 I'm satisfied that the facts stated in paragraph 14 of the
22 presentence report is sufficient to rule that he did not have a
23 minor role. It went over a three-year period, he drove numerous
24 prostitutes to brothels, he picked them up at the airports, he
25 was in regular telephone or text communication with Ms. Wang

1 during the course of the conspiracy, he rented apartments, he
2 rented them in his own name, or leased them. I'm satisfied that
3 his role was similar perhaps to Mr. Wu's -- W-u is the
4 spelling -- role, and I don't think he got a minor role. I'm not
5 about to give him a minor role.

6 So for purposes of guideline computations, I conclude that
7 the total offense level is 15, the criminal history category is
8 I, and the guideline range is 18 to 24 months.

9 I will hear from the government as to what the appropriate
10 sentence is.

11 MS. CRISHAM: Thank you, Your Honor.

12 Your Honor, we're asking for the Court to impose a sentence
13 of six months. As Your Honor noted, Mr. Thompson has been a part
14 of this conspiracy for a long time. He joined in approximately
15 2014, and in some ways he played an even more important role in
16 the conspiracy than Mr. Wu. He had several advantages, including
17 the ability to speak English.

18 Contrary to what Mr. Nance suggested, that wasn't a detriment
19 to him in this conspiracy. It was a benefit. He was able to
20 communicate with customers, which, again, was clear from the text
21 messages that were recovered, showing him drafting out
22 instructions on how to get to a particular apartment that
23 Ms. Wang could then send to customers.

24 He also had a good job and good credit, and that allowed him
25 to rent high-end apartments as residential brothels for the

1 organization. He also furnished these apartments and set up
2 utilities, including Internet connectivity in them.

3 And even though Mr. Thompson didn't admit this to the
4 government in his proffer, and he still seems to be saying this,
5 his sole motivation in becoming involved in this was not to find
6 a wife. Those text messages that were recovered after he had his
7 proffer show that he actually scouted out potential apartment
8 locations for Mrs. Wang and that he also received money, a
9 monthly fee of \$700 for each apartment that he rented for her.

10 In scouting locations, Mr. Thompson would take note of
11 whether a particular location would be a good location for
12 prostitution, he would talk about whether there was good parking,
13 whether it would be easy for customers to find, and whether it
14 was located in an area or part of the complex where neighbors
15 wouldn't notice foot traffic.

16 He regularly picked up women at SeaTac, he took them to and
17 from various brothel locations, and he also drove them to the
18 grocery store and on other errands. He also purchased supplies
19 in bulk, including condoms, and delivered those to the brothels.

20 Finally, Mr. Thompson picked up prostitution earnings from
21 various locations and handed them over to Ms. Wang.

22 And, again, we believe that the evidence shows that he did
23 financially benefit, and this was part of the reason he became
24 involved. \$700 a month, and we know that he was renting several
25 apartments a month, and \$4,000 in cash was found in a

1 hollowed-out book in his apartment.

2 And that leads me to his sentence. The U.S. Attorney's
3 Office has really struggled with our recommendation here, and
4 particularly whether [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

12 THE COURT: So to what extent was he not fully candid
13 and how was he minimizing his role?

14 MS. CRISHAM: I think in two different ways. We're very
15 concerned about the fact that never, not once during his proffer,
16 did Mr. Thompson ever say that he was making money, a fee, for
17 renting these apartments. He said that Ms. Wang would
18 occasionally give him some money to reimburse him for damage to
19 the apartment, but he neglected to mention the \$700 per month,
20 per apartment fee, which we know he asked of her because we see
21 it in the text messages and we see him negotiating that with her.

22 THE COURT: Did you trace his bank accounts to see how
23 much he had got?

24 MS. CRISHAM: Your Honor, we were not able to do that.
25 And it may well be that he was keeping this cash at his home and

1 just simply spending cash rather than depositing it.

2 But I think it's clear that he wants to portray himself as
3 someone who was shy, someone who was awkward, someone who did
4 this to find a woman. And while he may have been interested in
5 romantic possibilities, it's also clear that he was getting
6 financial benefits from this. And so the government is concerned
7 with, first of all, his refusal to mention this during the
8 proffer and kind of still sticking to the story during his
9 statement to the Court.

10 These text messages also make clear that Mr. Thompson wasn't
11 the naive, deliberately ignorant person, which I think is the
12 phrase he uses. His texts about customers and his attempts to
13 find apartments where foot traffic wouldn't attract attention, as
14 well as his involvement in purchasing items like condoms, make
15 clear that he wasn't just deliberately ignorant. He knew that
16 this organization was involved in prostitution, and he willingly
17 went along with it for years.

18 There were also some disturbing text messages which were
19 included in our exhibit to the Court, where he spoke very
20 disparagingly of some of the women. There was one instance where
21 he threatened to throw one woman "out on her ass" if he saw her
22 again.

23 Again, these text messages really contrast with his
24 self-description of himself as someone who was basically harmless
25 and only wanted to find a wife. Instead, they show that, just

1 like the other co-defendants, he saw these women as commodities
2 and was less concerned about their status and why they were in
3 this situation than what they could do for him.

4 Given those minimizations and his failure to provide material
5 information about the financial benefits, we did struggle in my
6 office whether or not to recommend a sentence that took into
7 account [REDACTED] We ultimately did agree to do so. And,
8 again, that's [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]
11 [REDACTED]

12 However, we do strongly believe that a term of imprisonment
13 is necessary. Mr. Thompson is virtually identical to Mr. Wu, who
14 served eight months in prison, with the exception that Mr. Wu was
15 fully candid, so far as we know, during his proffer. And I think
16 allowing Mr. Thompson no time, the sentence that he's requesting,
17 would result in unwarranted sentencing disparity, and it would
18 also reward him for his failure to tell the whole truth.

19 So, Your Honor, that is our position, unless Your Honor has
20 any further questions for me.

21 THE COURT: No questions. Thank you.

22 Mr. Nance.

23 MR. NANCE: Our recommendation, Your Honor, is that we
24 ask that you adopt the recommendation made by probation, who is
25 very familiar with Mr. Thompson and his role in this.

1 Essentially, this case is about a decent man's fundamental
2 need for female companionship overwhelming his better judgment
3 and his common sense.

4 Steve Thompson just turned 60 earlier this week. He's 60
5 years old. No criminal history. He's always been an achiever.
6 You can go back to his days in high school. One of his old high
7 school football teammates flew out from North Carolina to be here
8 today, Randy Angel. He keeps long-time friendships because
9 that's the kind of guy he is. He's always been an achiever, he's
10 always worked a full-time job, he's maintained very stable
11 relationships, and generally thought very well of by everyone who
12 knows him and who has worked with him.

13 But he's always been looking for love, and always comes up a
14 little bit short. And so he got into this conspiracy. As hard
15 as that might be for some folks to accept, he got into this
16 conspiracy, or more like he fell into this conspiracy, because he
17 couldn't resist the opportunity to meet younger women who might
18 be interested in him. And he had blinders on for a while. This
19 idea of willful blindness or deliberate ignorance -- I may have
20 used that in talking to him once, and that's probably where he
21 got it -- he didn't keep that forever. He was ignoring the
22 obvious, and eventually the obvious became too obvious. And,
23 yeah, he knew what he was doing, and he's acknowledged that.
24 It's in the plea agreement what he did. He stipulated to that.
25 And he doesn't deny that. He's never really denied that.

1 It was never, though, about deliberately exploiting women.
2 If you had asked him in the moment, he would have said, "Well,
3 I'm being nice to these women. I'm helping them. I'm being nice
4 to them. I'm treating them with decency and with respect." He
5 never had sexual relations with any of these women. That wasn't
6 what he was looking for. He did take them shopping. He tried to
7 be nice to them. And his perception was they liked him. They
8 really appreciated a man being nice to them without wanting
9 something in return.

10 Financial gain was certainly not his first motivation, not
11 his goal. He had this good-paying job. He didn't need the few
12 dollars that this could have gained him, if it did at all. The
13 government has made a big deal of him not being forthcoming, and
14 it seems to relate to this idea that he was making all of this
15 secret money on the side that he didn't tell them about. We
16 really take issue with that. He confessed his involvement, the
17 essence of his involvement. After he was arrested, he told the
18 police he knew that he was part of this operation.

19 After I began representing him, we met with the government,
20 as quickly as we could arrange something, to give a proffer.

21 From the outset, [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]

2 The government certainly knew about the \$4,200 that they had

3 received, that they recovered in cash from his house. If it was

4 such a big issue, why wasn't he asked about it? He didn't tell

5 any fibs in that proffer. And he would have answered the

6 questions. He also gave answers that for any man, and for him

7 for sure, were deeply embarrassing. Deeply personal, deeply

8 embarrassing information that he told about himself in this

9 proffer.

10 [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED]

15 [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 The government, Ms. Crisham, indicated that his English was

23 such an asset. Perhaps it was, but there was no direct contact

24 with customers. He didn't screen customers. He didn't send

25 customers texts. He did not purchase condoms or wipes. That did

1 not happen. At most --

2 THE COURT: Well, just a moment. Isn't that a fact
3 that's in the presentence report?

4 Well, I don't see it in paragraph 14. Well, let's take a
5 look at -- all right. It's not in 14.

6 MR. NANCE: Yeah. The closest he might have come to
7 that would have been to agree to transfer a package remaining
8 unopened. It could have contained anything. It could have. But
9 he didn't wittingly provide condoms or wipes to anyone at any
10 time.

11 There was a reference to this disparaging remark he made in a
12 text about this Taiwanese woman. I think the word "pig" may have
13 been used. I don't have it in front of me. He can't deny the
14 text, but the text referred to this particular woman who had
15 trashed an apartment with his name on it, that he personally had
16 to come in afterwards and clean up. It took him three hours to
17 clean up the pigsty that she had created there, everything from
18 destroying furniture to flushing chicken bones down the food
19 disposal. So that was the reference there. It was said in anger
20 and irritation at what had happened there. That's what that was.
21 He saw her later, and he was over the irritation. So I don't
22 think you can take that one sample and say he therefore has this
23 disparaging attitude toward women. That's not the way he viewed
24 himself at all.

25 Regarding the fee that, again, the government has continued

1 to fix on, I was re-reading their memorandum. They cited that
2 example, that same example, about five or six times in their
3 memorandum. There was some texting from Mr. Thompson to Fang
4 Wang that referenced a fee, and it was in the neighborhood of 500
5 or 700 dollars. What he was trying to do was build up what he
6 thought of as an insurance cash reserve to pay for damages that
7 he thought could happen to these apartments that were in his
8 name. I mean, one example was the Taiwanese woman who trashed
9 things. Who pays for that? Mr. Thompson had to pay for it.
10 It's his apartment. He has to pay the damages. And so in order
11 to make it clear to Ms. Wang, he just called it a "fee." But it
12 was essentially an amount that he was trying to save, so that in
13 the end -- and he would pay expenses out of that as well.

14 Again, he wasn't making any money at this. And if you did a
15 quick ledger check, if that were possible to do, at most he's up
16 a few hundred over the course of two and a half years, two years.
17 So there was really very little about that to report to the
18 agents or to volunteer to the agents. If they had asked him
19 about it, he would have talked about it. So it just seems unfair
20 to say he wasn't fully cooperative because he didn't volunteer
21 something that he didn't think was that significant.

22 The government, we believe, has such a different view of his
23 actions, but it doesn't understand the Steven Thompson that his
24 family understand and that his friends know. I would refer you
25 briefly to the letters, the various letters, that have come out.

1 In fact, two folks are here. Mr. Angel is here from North
2 Carolina, a trusted friend. A couple of the things that stood
3 out in the letter to me: Steven Thompson "is of the highest
4 stock," he says. "Selfless." He would do anything for a friend.
5 "He would take a bullet for me."

6 He also would have insight into this notion of why Steve
7 Thompson would have \$4,000 in cash at his place. He has a
8 long-time habit of squirrelling away money. That's just the way
9 he rolls.

10 Also present is Hong Duong, his close friend. She is leasing
11 him a room now. Mr. Thompson is the godfather of her
12 seven-year-old daughter. She described him as positive, with a
13 caring attitude.

14 Then you have got letters from his brother and sister who
15 care a lot about him as well. He's loyal, he's a good caregiver,
16 a thoughtful listener, and a provider.

17 And then there are the people actually within the court
18 system that have actually taken time, spent time with
19 Mr. Thompson, beginning with probation. Brienne Olsen, the
20 probation officer, has made a thoughtful recommendation. He was
21 supervised for seven or eight months by Pretrial Officer Mark
22 Okano, who, I think, is -- here he is -- here to show his
23 support. His conduct on pretrial supervision was exemplary. And
24 you can bet if he remained in the community working at his job at
25 Home Depot, it would continue.

1 There's no one, even directly from the government, that
2 thinks that Steven Thompson, if he's allowed to remain in the
3 community, is going to get back into mischief again or going to
4 commit any new offenses. It's just highly, highly unlikely, very
5 remote, that that would happen.

6 He is deeply chastened, I believe deeply remorseful, in a way
7 that is unusual. I was watching the last sentencing here where
8 you asked the defendant, "How many times have you given that
9 little thing about, 'Oh, I'm so sorry. I'm so sorry, Your
10 Honor'"? And we have all heard it. I have heard it a hundred
11 times, and you have probably heard it a thousand times. It's
12 commonplace. But the remorse that you're likely to hear from
13 Steven Thompson, I believe, is deep, it's genuine. He's not just
14 sorry that he was caught. He's sorry. He is regretful for the
15 lives of these women. He feels very badly about that. And he
16 feels very badly, remorseful, that his attempts at kindness to
17 these women might have in some way helped further facilitate and
18 perpetrate, perpetuate this conspiracy. He feels very bad about
19 that. He feels embarrassed about it. That's not really who he
20 sees himself as being. He is sorry that he has disappointed his
21 friends. He's sorry that he has disappointed his family. I
22 think, ultimately, he's sorry that he disappointed himself in
23 this.

24 I would urge you to take a very hard look at the
25 recommendation that is being made here, and it is a

1 recommendation of time served. He has had just a taste of jail,
2 he knows he never wants to go back there again, and the odds of
3 it ever needing to happen are zero. He wants to keep his life
4 post-Microsoft in an upward trajectory. He's taken a job. He's
5 doing a responsible job now at Home Depot. He's doing well.
6 He's on the road to management there. He would like to stay
7 there. He would like to be kept in the community.

8 We would urge the Court to adopt the recommendation of
9 probation, give him a time-served sentence, perhaps restrict him
10 to location monitoring for a few months, with permission for
11 release to go to a job or to other court-approved errands.

12 So that's our recommendation. I know Mr. Thompson wants to
13 address you. Mr. Angel has told me he's waiting in the wings and
14 available to talk about, if the Court wants to hear it, anything
15 about Mr. Thompson's propensities to squirrel money away or to
16 provide further character. He's known him a long time. They
17 played football together in high school, and they have been close
18 friends since then.

19 THE COURT: All right. I will hear from the defendant.

20 MR. NANCE: Thank you.

21 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you.

22 THE COURT: Good afternoon, sir.

23 THE DEFENDANT: I prepared a letter, as best that I
24 could, which attempted to explain my involvement and the depths
25 of my regret, and I'll stand with that. I don't want to just

1 repeat the points and take up time doing that. Mr. Nance has
2 done a good job in the last few minutes.

3 The main thing that I want to say is that I am sorry in the
4 deepest way, and as Mr. Nance said, I'm not sorry because I got
5 caught. The sources of my sorrow are deep. I will just name two
6 or three quickly.

7 I was raised in a good home, and my parents instilled proper
8 values in me. I know the difference between right and wrong.
9 There's no question. And I was wrong, and I admit it. And I'm
10 embarrassed. I feel terrible about it. I'm full of regret.

11 Additionally, this case has put me on the opposite side of
12 institutions which I respect and admire and have my whole life:
13 law enforcement, the police, the FBI, the justice system, of
14 course, the military. Those are institutions that I support.
15 I'm on that side. And now I suddenly find myself on the other
16 side. I will regret that for the rest of my life.

17 And I have embarrassed myself in front of my younger sister
18 and younger brother, and that's the worst thing that I've ever
19 gone through. There was never any criminality in my life. This
20 came as a shock to the people that have been brought into it.
21 But I can assure you that this will never happen again. I will
22 never again have to stand in front of my sister and my brother
23 and explain and apologize for bad behavior.

24 I thank my friend Randy and my best friend Hong for standing
25 with me. Randy traveled all the way here from North Carolina. I

1 can assure you that there will never again come a time when I
2 stand in front of those fine people and have to tell them
3 something like this. It's not going to happen.

4 I am sorry. And I regret -- I feel tremendous sorrow for the
5 ladies that were involved in this. I never intended to hurt
6 anyone and never saw myself as hurting anyone.

7 I regret the outburst that the prosecution has correctly
8 framed in the text message, but I would say that that was a few
9 minutes of passion about being upset about that apartment having
10 been trashed and broken and having to spend all that time. And
11 I said what I said, but I would submit that that is the only time
12 that I have ever -- I have never talked like that about another
13 person. I have never sent another message like that, certainly
14 not within this case or outside of this case. That's not the way
15 I am.

16 The people that I associated with in this case, I have no
17 doubt that they liked me. I know they enjoyed my company. And
18 as Mr. Nance said, and I believe I included it in my letter, I
19 now deeply regret that my help and assistance may have caused
20 even one of those ladies to stay in that business longer than
21 they might have otherwise. I might have made it more tolerable
22 for them. I regret that.

23 Now I think I would probably just be going in circles, so I'm
24 going to stop and just say once again that I'm sorry, I apologize
25 to everyone involved, the court, my friends, my family, to you,

1 Judge, to everyone. I apologize. I'm sorry.

2 THE COURT: All right. Let me ask you, Mr. Thompson,
3 were you present during the earlier sentencings?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

5 THE COURT: All right. So you have heard everything
6 that I had to say before. I won't repeat it in detail.

7 But for the record, and I will start with what you have said
8 and what your lawyer has said, and what I think is true, there's
9 no question in my mind that you're deeply remorseful, you are
10 sorry. I'm sure that you will never stand in front of another
11 judge and be sentenced for anything again. That's all true. And
12 from the review of your history and the like, you had a fine
13 upbringing, you had a wonderful job at Microsoft, you had never
14 been convicted of anything. All of these are factors that I have
15 to take into account.

16 But I also have to look at the nature and extent of your
17 involvement in this multi-defendant prostitution ring that
18 Ms. Wang was organizing. You may have, when she approached you
19 first in that coffee shop, thought that she would be someone you
20 could be friends with, but it is clear this prostitution ring
21 lasted, that we know of, for almost three years, and you played
22 an important role, such a role that I concluded you were not a
23 minor player because of all the reasons the prosecution has
24 indicated. But you did speak English clearly, that's your native
25 language, and you did rent various apartments that were used for

1 prostitution, and you knew that that's what they were going to be
2 used for. And you even made recommendations and scouted out some
3 of these and said, "This is a good location; this is not so
4 good." You got money, a fee, for some of these locations. And
5 whether it was a maintenance fund, or whatever, to fix up any
6 problems -- I don't know why you were getting money -- it's clear
7 that you did receive financial benefit. And the text messages,
8 I've read, and some of them are troubling because they reflect
9 someone who is giving Ms. Wang information about how she can do
10 this prostitution ring better.

11 [REDACTED]
12 [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED] You
16 heard me sentence him to time served, which was eight months,
17 because he's been in custody.

18 I'm satisfied that a requirement that you go to jail is
19 necessary. This is a serious offense, and it went on for a long
20 period of time, and I would be remiss as a judge, in my opinion,
21 if I did not require you to go to prison and reflect on what you
22 have done.

23 What we have here is a guideline range of 18 to 24 months.
24 Now, these guidelines don't bind me, and I'm not going to send
25 you to jail for 18 to 24 months, but that's the range that people

1 committing the crime that you committed, as an average, have been
2 sentenced over the years. So it gives us some indication of
3 what's appropriate.

4 Well, you have cooperated. You don't have a prior arrest
5 record like Mr. Jefferson. I don't know if you were here for
6 him, but he's got enough for all of us. I'm satisfied that,
7 under all the circumstances, a sentence of eight months, which is
8 essentially what I gave Mr. Wu, is necessary, but not longer than
9 necessary.

10 It will therefore be the judgment of this Court that this
11 defendant be committed to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons
12 for a period of eight months. I think anything less would be a
13 disparate sentence. I need to look at all of the people in the
14 conspiracy and attempt to arrive at some reasonable sentence that
15 reflects a similarity to the nature of your involvement. And as
16 best I can tell, you were involved equally with Mr. Wu in what
17 you did, and that type of a disparity is not appropriate.

18 Therefore, it will be the judgment of the Court that you are
19 committed to the Bureau of Prisons for a period of eight months,
20 followed by a period of two years of supervised release, subject
21 to each of the standard conditions as well as each of the special
22 conditions that were recommended by probation. I will waive the
23 fine. I find you don't have the ability to pay a fine. I will
24 assess the \$100 special assessment. And I'll conclude that
25 because of your financial affairs that I will not impose the

1 sentence under the JVTA.

2 I assume that you're going to be placed at SeaTac, and I'm
3 going to let you self-report. If you have a request for a
4 placement somewhere else, I will make it, but the Bureau of
5 Prisons is going to decide where you go.

6 Do you want a recommendation on placement?

7 (Mr. Nance and the defendant confer.)

8 THE COURT: The nearest is Camp Sheridan. But you tell
9 me.

10 MR. NANCE: If I could have 30 seconds, Your Honor?

11 (Mr. Nance and the defendant confer.)

12 THE COURT: Okay. Your 30 seconds is up. And mine is
13 only a recommendation in any event, and the Bureau is going to
14 decide. And most likely they're going to put you at SeaTac.

15 But do you want a recommendation?

16 MR. NANCE: Yes. We would ask the recommendation to
17 be --

18 THE COURT: Camp Sheridan?

19 MR. NANCE: -- to FDC Sheridan.

20 THE COURT: All right. Let's put that in the judgment.

21 And I will advise you, Mr. Thompson, that to the extent you
22 haven't waived your rights to appeal the sentence, any appeal
23 must be filed within 14 days of the time I sign the judgment,
24 which I'm going to do today.

25 And I want to tell you and advise you that I'm going to

1 continue the same conditions of release pending your placement.
2 What happens is you will get notified by probation of where and
3 when to report. And it's up to you, if you get placed at
4 Sheridan, that you get yourself down there on your own prior to
5 the time that they told you to report. And the probation officer
6 can help you understand exactly what your requirements are. But
7 you will be under the Court's supervision until you report.

8 And let me ask you this, if you wanted to report earlier --
9 the reporting is probably going to be two or three months away?

10 MS. OLSEN: I think it's four to six weeks.

11 THE COURT: I'm sorry?

12 MS. OLSEN: It's four to six weeks.

13 THE COURT: Four to six weeks until he has to report?

14 MS. OLSEN: I'm going to --

15 MR. OKANO: Typically, Your Honor -- Mark Okano with
16 Pretrial Services -- typically it's about 45 days before we get a
17 designation from the Bureau of Prisons.

18 THE COURT: Forty-five days to get the designation. And
19 then how much time do they give him to report?

20 MR. OKANO: Typically two weeks.

21 THE COURT: Two weeks. So we're talking two months.

22 MR. OKANO: But the option is there. If they do want to
23 report early, they can.

24 THE COURT: Yes.

25 So the question is whether you wanted to report early. If

1 you did, just to start it and get it over with, then you should
2 work with pretrial services and probation and see if they can
3 arrange for you to do that.

4 All right. Any objections to the form?

5 MR. NANCE: No, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: I have signed the judgment. It will be
7 filed.

8 Anything further to come before the Court today?

9 MS. CRISHAM: Not from the government, Your Honor.

10 MR. NANCE: Not from the defense.

11 THE COURT: We will be in recess.

12 (Adjourned.)

13

14 C E R T I F I C A T E

15

16 I, Nickoline M. Drury, RMR, CRR, Court Reporter for the
17 United States District Court in the Western District of
18 Washington at Seattle, do certify that the foregoing is a correct
19 transcript, to the best of my ability, from the record of
20 proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

21

22

23 /s/ Nickoline Drury

24 Nickoline Drury

25